

Medical Princess 731

Chapter 731 Honored Consort Shu Died in the Palace

The plum blossom grove of Duke Xing's Mansion was actually not big. The pavilion was located on the other side of the plum grove, a bit far from where she had just come in.

A curtain was hung outside in the winter, which was slightly lifted on the side facing them. Someone was standing in the pavilion and it was hard to see who he was facing, but one thing was certain, that person seemed to be facing in their direction. "Miss, there seems to be someone over there!" Yujie also spotted the person in the pavilion. Although she couldn't see his face, he was a man, and she could see his dark robe.

"Let's go!" Shao Wanru shook her head and motioned her not to look. No matter who the man over there was, since it was a man, it was always inconvenient.

"Okay!" Yujie nodded. She held the vase behind Shao Wanru and walked back together, and then disappeared behind the plum grove.

Wen Xichi watched Shao Wanru as she was leaving through the curtain. After quite a while, he reached out and rubbed his brows, feeling very uncomfortable. It was an unspeakable feeling.

It was a routine matter for him to visit Duke Xing's Mansion today, mainly to ask about the Madam of Duke Xing poisoning incident, because it was related to something in the palace of the late imperial. The emperor had asked him to come over and take a look.

He didn't officially go to the Ministry of Justice for filing. The poisoning of the noble aristocratic family looked more like a domestic matter. But the poison was a bit special, so he'd better look into the case. If he could find out something, that would be great. It didn't matter if he couldn't find anything.

After all, it had happened when the late emperor was on the throne when the harem was quite different from that of the current emperor.

Wen Xichi lived right next door to Duke Xing's Mansion. The Ministry of Justice had asked him to pay a visit. He first went to see Madam of Duke Xing, and then asked a few more questions. Shao Hua'an, the eldest son of Duke Xing, took him to the yard for a stroll. After a while, a male servant suddenly came over and whispered something in Shao Hua'an's ear. Shao Hua'an excused himself and asked him to wait for a while before leaving.

There happened to be a pavilion in front of him, so he decided to stand there to admire the scenery of the plum grove. He hadn't expected to see Shao Wanru and the maid in the plum grove.

He silently watched Shao Wanru looking around under the plum trees to look for most desired plum branches. From time to time, he saw her talking to the maid next to her. Although she was far away and he couldn't hear what they were talking about, he could tell that she seemed to be in a good mood. She had always looked cold, but now she smiled from time to time.

A girl with delicate facial features was standing in the plum grove, but the whole plum grove had become the background behind her because she was even more beautiful than those flowers!

Wen Xichi had always been disdainful of using the sentences in the books to describe a woman, but now he felt inexplicable that he hadn't learned enough vocabulary. No matter how beautiful the words were, they weren't as beautiful as the beautiful girl under the tree in front of him. He felt that he had seen such a scene in the depths of his memory.

A beautiful and distant woman was walking among the branches of flowers and occasionally looking back, which made his heart beat faster. He stretched out his hand and pressed his chest. It was indeed beating a lot faster than before, but he couldn't tell why, and he felt a little irritated!

There was a faint uncontrollable feeling, which was extremely uncomfortable for him...

The Madam of Duke Xing poisoning incident finally disappeared silently, as if nothing had happened. Occasionally one heard the news that Madam of Duke Xing seemed to have been poisoned by someone with a certain poison that had once been used in the palace. There was nothing else.

Madam of Duke Xing was fine, but she was just not very well. She disliked the noise in Duke Xing's Mansion, so she decided to go to live in Yuhui Nunnery with a few maids for a while for recovery.

As for the death of Nanny Sheng, who would care how an old maid died, and what was the charge?

People from the Ministry of Justice also came to inquire about it, but that was the end of it. Neither the victim nor anyone felt wronged. The matter was just a formality and was neither filed with the Ministry of Justice nor recorded. It was almost peaceful outside the palace, even if Madam of Duke Xing had set off to recuperate in Yuhui Nunnery, it did not disturb other people. She set off early when even the shops on the street weren't open.

But some people say that they had seen a horse-drawn carriage of Madam of Duke Xing. It simply did not look like a carriage worthy of the rank of Madam of Duke. It looked like the most common tarp windshield carriage in an aristocratic family. If they hadn't learned later that Madam of Duke Xing had left early in the morning, no one would have thought that Madam of Duke Xing was sitting in the carriage.

However, there was another rumor that Madam of Duke Xing was not in good health. This time she went to live in the mountain to cultivate quietly and avoid noise. Naturally, she didn't want to go out on a high profile, which would bother others and herself.

Duke Xing's Mansion became completely quiet due to the trip of Madam of Duke Xing, but the palace was not quiet. Honored Consort Shu suddenly died! Moreover, she hanged herself.

It was said that she had committed suicide in despair, but no word from the palace explained why she had done it. Honored Consort Shu's family was allowed to go to the funeral, and then given some rewards by the emperor and the empress, and that was the end of it.

Honored Consort Shu had no children, and had been out of favor in the palace. In addition, her natal family had no power. Her position was not low, but the fact that she had neither children nor favor from the emperor was sufficient to explain why she had been completely ignored in the palace. Even the new favorite concubine didn't care much about her.

Honored Consort Shu was one of the senior concubines of the emperor before he was enthroned. She committed suicide inexplicably. They couldn't find out anything after the investigation. Although some

ministers asked the empress to look into it again and suggested that everyone in the harem should be questioned carefully. But they were angrily scolded by the emperor.

It was his harem, and he didn't need the meddlesome ministers to meddle with his domestic affairs.

At this time, the Imperial Institute of Medicine presented a report, which explained why Consort Shu had committed suicide very well. It turned out that Honored Consort Shu had an incurable insidious disease, so she was often in a bad mood. As depressed as she was, she had gotten into a fight with a new concubine on the day of the accident. In a moment of despair, she had killed herself.

The report of the Imperial Institute of Medicine immediately calmed down the entire court, and no one stared at the emperor's harem anymore. A concubine in the harem was sick all the year round and depressed, and after a quarrel with an arrogant new concubine, she committed suicide. It had happened all the time in each dynasty, which was something beyond investigation.

But the new concubine ended up being directly thrown into the Cold Palace by the empress. The new concubine had entered the palace and treated an older higher-ranked concubine in the palace so arrogantly, which was a serious violation against royal court rules...

Shao Wanru had heard all these things from Qing'er. Of course, Qing'er finally said specifically that the reason for the accident was that the poison powder in the hands of Madam of Duke Xing could be traced back to her. It was said that the emperor had personally asked about the poisoning incident, and then the empress ordered her to hang herself with a piece of white silk.

Qing'er didn't know why it had been traced back to Honored Consort Shu, but she believed that someone must have tampered with it.

Shao Wanru didn't care much about the death of Honored Consort Shu. Although she hadn't seen much of the woman, the latter had plotted against her with Duke Xing's Mansion twice, so she didn't like her. Did she think that she had no opponents in the harem when she was making trouble? She had reaped the consequences of her fate.

In her last life, she had never seen this Honored Consort Shu in the palace. She thought the latter must have had died before she entered the palace. As a troublemaker with a humble background, she had asked for it.

She hadn't expected that Madam of Duke Xing would be forced to go to Yuhui Nunnery. But it made sense when she thought about it.

Madam of Duke Xing thought that she had put all the blame on Nanny Sheng. But she could deceive others, but not Shao Jing. The Old Madam might have been deceived at the time, and how could she not punish Madam of Duke Xing after learning the truth? Taking advantage of Madam of Duke Xing's bad health, the Old Madam had sent her away directly. It was a common excuse used by the wives and young ladies of the aristocratic families when they committed crimes.

Madam of Duke Xing had overreached herself this time.

"Miss, Nanny Xi is not coming? It has been several days." Unlike Qing'er, Yujie cared about another matter.

"She is not coming!" Shao Wanru shook her head and narrowed her eyes slightly.

After such a thing happened, even if Duke Xing's Mansion tried to keep it low-key, many other aristocratic families were secretly guessing if Nanny Xi would come back at this time. It would inevitably bring a lot of troubles for Duke Xing's Mansion, which wasn't what the empress and Duke Xing's Mansion wanted to see.

What Duke Xing's Mansion needed now was to keep it low-key. What the empress wanted to show was also impartiality. When no one paid special attention to Duke Xing's Mansion before, she could privately send her maids to give special favor to the daughters of Duke Xing's Mansion, and even give Shao Wanru a hard time. Now everyone's attention was focused on Duke Xing's Mansion, the empress certainly would not do anything to her.

"That's great! You don't have to learn things all day long! You have had a good command of the rules!" Yujie was overjoyed. She felt that there was nothing to learn from Nanny Xi for her master. Shao Wanru had mastered the rules very well, and Nanny Xi couldn't find fault with her, no matter how picky the woman was.

Shao Wanru smiled faintly, but she didn't say anything. She would never be good enough because everyone in the palace was striving for perfection!

Besides, even if she learned it very well, could she argue with people from the palace when someone found fault with her and said that she hadn't learned it very well? If she argued with them, she would be criticized for being ignorant and impolite, and she would even be punished. She remembered that she had been punished for misbehaving. Shao Yanru had sent someone to watch her salute sideways in the hot sun until she couldn't stand it and fainted. Later she was even told to go to apologize to Shao Yanru again the next day.

The palace was no place for a reason.

The winter of the year was so cold that Shao Wanru didn't want to go out. Fortunately, the entire Duke Xing's Mansion looked extremely quiet this year. Everyone seemed to want to have a peaceful New Year and didn't intend to make trouble.

Although it was the first time that Third Madam had taken charge of Duke Xing's Mansion's affairs, it was organized. Regarding the absence of Madam of Duke Xing, everyone slowly accepted the fact that she was not in good health now, and she was living in Yuhui Nunnery to heal her body. Naturally, she couldn't work hard.

As soon as the Chinese New Year was over, the court draft was started. It had been prepared early. As long as the specified date was set, the girls would enter the palace according to the list.

Duke Xing's Mansion had four ladies who were going to enter the palace for the court draft, so the originally sluggish mansion became lively. The Old Madam would give out rewards from time to time, and people from the garment shops outside would also be invited directly into the mansion to make a few more fitting clothes for the ladies.

On the sixth day of the first lunar month, when everyone was still busy visiting relatives, the beauties officially entered the palace...

Chapter 732 Court Draft

On the wide official road, the carriages came one after another, all heading for the palace gate where there were inspections. Therefore, the carriages in the direction of the palace gate traveled very slowly. One end had already reached the palace gate, while the other end was still on the street.

On both sides of the street, many people were watching the carriages with their respective aristocratic family symbols passing by and gossiping. The most talked-about was Duke Xing's Mansion.

It was because that, on the one hand, the Young Lady of Duke Xing's Mansion had faintly become the most beautiful woman, and on the other hand, it had been a troubled time for Duke Xing's Mansion recently, and the relationship with Yuhui Nunnery outside the city was too close. The first was Miss Shao, and then Fifth Miss Shao, and now Madam of Duke Xing.

There was something wrong with it. But some things were too confidential, and the ordinary people didn't know it under the pressure of several parties.

But this did not prevent the people from watching the lively scene. They guessed how beautiful Miss Shao of Duke Xing's Mansion might be, and this time she would be married into the royal family, but no one knew which prince she would marry.

It was said that Miss Shao was stunningly beautiful. How could such a beauty not marry into the royal family? The carriage was moving slowly. Shao Wanru leaned on the side of the carriage, closed her eyes, and was drowsy. She had been woken up early this morning. Since there was nothing better to do at the moment, she soon felt sleepy.

Each of the ladies of aristocratic families participating in the court draft rode in one carriage. Duke Xing's Mansion sent four carriages and entered the fleet according to their rankings. She was sitting in the last carriage of Duke Xing's Mansion.

The speed of the carriage was extremely slow. There were light veils hanging from the windows and brocade curtains. The sound came in from the outside, and it was quite clear. Especially with a few in loud voices, it sounded almost right there.

Someone recognized the symbol of Duke Xing's Mansion and pushed his way through the crowd to see it. The reputation of the first beauty was widespread. He would be very lucky if he could see such great beauty, so many people were crowding around their car and discussing. Everyone wanted to take a look at the legendary beauty of Miss Shao.

Someone guessed that the carriage in the front should be Miss Shao's, so there were the most people on her side. The horse-drawn carriages passed by, attracting crowds, but in the end, they stopped at the intersection outside the palace gate. The audience wasn't allowed on the section of the road, and there were no shops on both sides.

At this section of the road, the voices of the audience on both sides completely disappeared. Then they slowly entered the palace.

Four hours had passed since they went out in the morning and arrived at the gate of the palace. Originally, this section of the road was a short ride of about one hour at most.

Finally, the carriages entered the palace gate and parked in the parking lot according to the regulations. Each lady showed up at the gate with a maid, and Shao Wanru brought Yujie.

There were already prepared soft sedan chairs waiting there. After the ladies got on the sedan chair, the two eunuchs carried them to the vast palace.

Shao Wanru didn't feel sleepy at this time. She half-raised the curtain and looked outside. After looking at it for a while, she felt that the scenery in front of her became familiar. In her previous life, though she was not a beauty who was drafted in the palace, she knew that the beauties came here from time to time. It should be the palace where the beauties were staying.

Finally, the sedan chair stopped, and Yujie stepped forward to help Shao Wanru out of the sedan chair.

Along the way, she had been sitting in either a carriage or a sedan chair, and she felt sore and soft. Shao Wanru took Yujie's hand to stand still, narrowed her eyes, and looked around. It turned out that it was the palace of the curt draft as she remembered.

This area was not a palace. It was a place for the beauties to live in and called Chuxiu Palace. It was composed of several different palaces. Although it was only the name of a palace, the large courtyard was set with smaller courtyards. There were rows of rooms, and it had always been the place for draft picks.

Most of the concubines in the palace entered the palace in such a drafting method. Of course, this also meant that the marriage of the princes was also the same.

The main purpose of the draft this time was the marriage of several princes who were of the right age to get married. The royal family members usually wouldn't marry too young. Three years ago, it was only said to be engagement first. Marriage was decided to be premature back then, but now there should be almost no change about the candidates once they were selected.

"Third Miss, Fourth Miss, Fifth Miss, let's go together!" Shao Yanru walked over and said softly. Duke Xing's Mansion regarded her as the eldest, as it should have been.

They nodded and followed behind her, all waiting for arrangements to move in.

Shao Yanru knew a lot of aristocratic family ladies. Although it was inconvenient to make loud noises, they nodded and smiled at each other. Although the smiles were decent, they were not affectionate. Shao Yanru was the most popular candidate. How could her competitors be affectionate with her?

Shao Yanru smiled decently. She took her younger sisters of Duke Xing's Mansion, followed the guidance of the palace maid, and took the number plate from a steward Nanny. They looked at the numbers on the number plates and found that they were living next door to each other as expected.

A eunuch had been waiting a long time ago. Seeing their number plates, he led them inside.

It didn't take long to arrive at the rooms they lived in, which were fairly close to the gate of Chuxiu Palace. Such a residence was usually only available to the real rich and powerful families. It was easy to get in and out and was also well-known.

They happened to have four rooms in a row. Shao Yanru chose the outermost one, and so on, Shao Wanru chose the innermost one.

They were a little tired and went into their rooms. Shao Wanru led Yujie to push open the slightly closed door and found that though it was only a room, it was divided into an outer room and an inner room with a four-fold screen.

“Miss, they all live like this. How many rooms are there!” Yujie looked inside and was surprised. Not only was the house bigger than she had imagined, but the decorations inside were good, and it was carefully arranged at first glance. When she was just standing outside the door, she also looked around. So many beauties were all living in this way, and it seemed there were not enough rooms.

“It’s just the front rooms. The back rooms have rooms for two people and four people!” Shao Wanru stepped in and said with a faint smile.

In her previous life, she had done paintings for the beauties. In fact, it should be the beauties of three years later, so she knew a little bit about it.

The high-status beauties were placed closer to the main entrance, and the place was also large, with one beauty in one room. Those of lower status lived in rooms for two or four. In the capital, the ladies of aristocratic families were also divided into different grades.

But some of them would be screened out.

Nanny Xi had told them before that the scale of the draft this time was quite large and even implied that it was more than a draft for the princes. Some would end up in the harem.

Of course, Nanny Xi was very cryptic, but Shao Wanru had taken the hint. It seemed that this time the selection wasn’t only confined to the prince’s wife and concubine, but also the concubines who would enter the palace. In the previous life, Shao Yanru should have entered the palace at this time. But she didn’t know why Shao Yanru, who was full of confidence at the time, entered the palace instead of her desired prince mansion.

In the previous life, Shao Yanru had a better reputation than this one, and Duke Xing’s Mansion was also more prosperous, but why she did not get a high position even though she was favored in the palace? Zhaoyi was not a high-ranking concubine. Could there be anything going on that she didn’t know about?

In this life, she also temporarily acted as a bystander to see if Shao Yanru would enter the palace as she had done in the previous life, or entered her desired prince mansion.

After making up her mind, Shao Wanru casually slept for a while after lunch.

The house was very clean. Yujie didn’t need to clean up it. Lunch was also delivered by a specific eunuch. After the meal was finished, the empty tray would be placed at the door for the eunuch to take away, which was very convenient.

In the afternoon, Nanny in charge of Chuxiu Palace gathered all the beauties. Shao Wanru has just woken up, and she hurriedly dressed up and left Yujie in the room. She followed the palace maid who led the way and went out with Shao Yanru and others. They weren’t allowed to bring the maid at this time.

In the garden, Nanny in-charge looked stern, waited for the beauties that were late to come over, and even severely reprimanded the last ones.

Shao Wanru was one of the first girls to arrive. It was more cost-effective to live closer than those who lived far away. She saw that the girls who were scolded all lived far away. Although they were sweating from walking all the way, they were still late.

When everyone was there, they were arranged in five teams and they entered the house where they were lined up outside one by one.

Shao Wanru lowered her head and took a deep breath. She blushed. In her last life, though she had participated in the draft as an outsider, now it was her turn.

Although others didn't know what the investigation was about, Shao Wanru understood that half of the candidates would be screened out. They checked whether the beauty had any disease or scars on her body, and those who weren't beautiful enough would also fail.

There were fewer girls in front of her now. Shao Wanru had been standing at the head of the line, so it was soon her turn.

She tried to hold back the panic in her heart, and take a deep breath. She followed a palace maid into the room. There was only one very old Nanny in-charge whose slightly chubby face showed a bit of sternness. She looked harsh at first glance.

After she entered the room, the door was closed. The windows had already been closed, and the curtain was drawn. The room was warm because of the lamps and the stove, like a different season from the weather outside.

The palace maid had left. Shao Wanru gasped. Even though she was born again, she had never undressed before others. "Come here! Get undressed!" the nanny said in a cold voice.

Shao Wanru gritted her teeth. It was a hurdle she had to pass. She plucked up her courage, took two steps forward, and touched her skirt with trembling fingers. She knew that she was going to undress to be checked, which was also the most embarrassing scene for a draft beauty.

"Hurry up!" the nanny said impatiently.

"Wait a minute!"

Chapter 733 She Was Destined to Marry the Emperor

"Wait a minute!"

Shao Wanru turned her head in amazement but saw that there was a nanny under the shadow of a lamp nearby. There was a table over there. Behind the table sat an old nanny. It seemed that she was much older than the previous nanny. She happened to be in the shadow of the lamp, and Shao Wanru was flustered just now, so she hadn't noticed her.

"Just remove the outer clothes!" The old nanny raised her eyes and looked at Shao Wanru gently.

"Then the other..." The previous nanny froze for a moment, confused. She had never encountered anything like this before.

"That's it!" said the old nanny.

The nanny did not dare to say anymore.

It was just that it was much simpler to remove the outer clothes than to take them off completely. But Shao Wanru still blushed. The younger nanny pressed her hands and legs a few times and asked a few more questions. After she finished answering these questions, the nanny recorded the results of the examination, nodded, and told her to leave.

She put on the outer clothes again and left. She was still blushing, but fortunately she had just taken off the outer clothes.

"Fifth Miss!" A happy voice came from the front, and Shao Wanru looked up, only to find that she had walked to a flower hall where the ladies who had been checked before were all gathered here.

It was Zhang Qilan who was talking to her.

"Miss Zhang!" She tried to calm down and smiled. Zhang Qilan had also lived in Yuhui Nunnery for some time. The two had a close relationship during that time. Shao Wanru admired Zhang Qilan's lively temperament.

"You came too! Great, I was worried that you would not come!" Zhang Qilan took Shao Wanru's hand and said affectionately while pulling her to a pavilion next to the flower hall for a chat.

Two young ladies were sitting together in the pavilion and chatting in a low voice. When they saw them coming, they nodded slightly and kindly.

The two also smiled at the two young ladies and sat down at the fence on the other side.

"I thought you were still observing mourning!" Zhang Qilan leaned over and pointed at the flower hall. "There are too many people there, so it's better here!"

She thought there were too many people, so she had come to the door and waited. "The mourning period will end in several days!" Shao Wanru said softly. Although there were still a few days away, basically it didn't count now. It was true that learning palace rules and etiquette were not a real draft. It was just the first hurdle to eliminate some inappropriate candidates. Besides, the royal family also knew about this. If they didn't say anything, it meant they had approved it.

What happened next was the key part.

"That's great. I thought it was so boring, but now it's great to have you here!" Zhang Qilan said happily, "Where do you live? I'll come to see you sometime."

"Okay, I'm staying in the last room in the second row over there." Shao Wanru pointed his finger in the general direction.

Zhang Qilan stood up, looked in the direction of Shao Wanru's finger, and asked some questions. Then she sat down again and nodded with a smile, "Great, I see. It seems we are quite close. I'm right there, not far from you. It's the first room in that direction. If you have time, you can come and play with me." Zhang Qilan stretched her right hand and pointed.

Shao Wanru looked in the direction and nodded. Zhang Qilan's father was Prime Minister Zhang. It was naturally impossible for his daughter to share a room with others in the back rows. It was inevitable that she lived not far from her.

The daughter of such an important courtier was supposed to live in a closer and better room than other mansions.

"You... what was going on with you?" Both of them were very happy after telling their positions. Zhang Qilan suddenly leaned in, blushing and pointing at the beauties who were waiting still in line, and said vaguely.

After Shao Wanru heard it, she remembered what had happened just now, and flushed again, "It was okay!"

"No, it was not okay. It's better to return home early!" Zhang Qilan sighed helplessly.

"You don't want to draft?" Shao Wanru looked at Zhang Qilan sideways. Zhang Qilan was also a beautiful girl, delicate and cute.

"I don't!" Zhang Qilan shook her head. She didn't like coming to the palace the least. She was told to behave and was not free at all. Every time she followed her mother into the palace, she felt uncomfortable.

"What did your father say?" Shao Wanru hesitated and asked.

"My father said that I might not be selected." Zhang Qilan lowered her voice and approached Shao Wanru. Then she looked around and saw that the two young ladies were also chatting in low voices without noticing them. She lowered her voice and said, "I heard that your eldest sister will be selected. Which prince mansion will she go to?"

"I don't know!" Shao Wanru shook her head calmly.

"Your eldest sister is so outstanding. It's said that she is the first beauty. If the first beauty doesn't marry into the royal family, will she marry into an ordinary house? I doubt it." Zhang Qilan curled her lips and spoke. She and Shao Wanru had met several times. Miss Shao looked dignified and decent, but she always felt that Miss Shao was insincere.

It seemed that Miss Shao was perfect without any flaws. In the words of her elder brother, few women were beautiful and talented as Miss Shao was. What was more, Miss Shao's identity was extraordinary, and she was the kind of woman the son of an aristocratic family would most like to marry.

"It's all spreading outside?" Shao Wanru was surprised and asked in a low voice.

"Yeah, don't you know? Everyone was talking about it before, but it has been the most talked-about topic in the past two days. They say that Madam of Duke Xing went to Yuhui Nunnery to pray for Miss Shao to fulfill her vows!" Zhang Qilan nodded.

Shao Wanru looked a little weird. She remembered the topics the crowd was talking about when she was sitting in the carriage just now, and how the crowd rushed to Shao Wanru's carriage. With the rumor that Madam of Duke Xing had gone to the nunnery to fulfill her vows, she would say that she had

guessed it right. Fulfilling her vows! Why would they do that? The daughter couldn't go but asked her mother to go up the mountain on the excuse of illness, which meant that this vow could not be known.

It could not be known, and it was also very important. She had to enter the palace during the draft, and there was a rumor that Shao Yanru would be selected. She suddenly realized something. She might know why Shao Yanru had entered the palace instead of any prince mansion in the previous life.

If a courtier with a high level of merit was considered too big for his boots, he would certainly be punished. If the daughter of a powerful family could have any prince she wanted and was seen as an ambitious candidate for the future empress, the emperor would certainly not be happy with it.

No one knew the final result until the draft was announced. They arbitrarily assessed the emperor's intentions and looked confident and arrogant. It would not only annoy the emperor but also affect the selection of the crown prince.

She smiled. Shao Yanru wanted to control everything, but she had gone too far. Of course, she might have other accomplices.

But no matter what, it was certain that Shao Yanru's trip to the palace would not be a success.

"Did the Madam of Duke Xing fulfill her vows for your eldest sister? What was it? Why did she keep it a secret?" When Zhang Qilan saw Shao Wanru in a daze, she stretched out her hand to take her by the sleeve and shook it.

"I don't know. Indeed, my aunt is not in good health!" Shao Wanru smiled wryly. She hadn't expected things to go in this direction.

"Is she sick?" Zhang Qilan asked in disbelief.

"She's sick!" Shao Wanru didn't try to hide it. Other people didn't know about this kind of thing, but many people in this palace knew about it. There was a lot involved in the incident of Honored Consort Shu. If people like Prime Minister Zhang inquired about it carefully, they could certainly find out about it.

"Okay! I thought she was destined to marry the emperor!" Zhang Qilan muttered in disappointment. She thought there was some important inside story, but it turned out that there was no inside story. It was just hearsay.

"Destined to marry the emperor?" Shao Wanru was surprised. Her eyes widened and she looked at Zhang Qilan, almost stunned. She was sure that this news was not from Duke Xing's Mansion.

After she said it, her mouth was covered by Zhang Qilan, "Quiet!"

Shao Wanru's voice was already very soft.

Shao Wanru shook her head to her and signaled that she would be quieter. Zhang Qilan sweated profusely and approached Shao Wanru, "I don't know if this is true or not. I overheard it."

"Where did you overhear it?" Shao Wanru asked in confusion.

"It was also a very occasional opportunity. I once followed my father to Huaguang Temple to listen to the scriptures. My father sent me out to play. I felt bored after a while and went back. I was afraid that

my father would send me away again, so I secretly went back. When I passed by the back of a meditation room, I happened to hear someone talking about it. I just listened to it, and I didn't know if it was true or false."

"Talking to your father?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Not my father. My father was still in the previous meditation room. There was nothing between the two rooms." Zhang Qilan said, "I didn't dare to listen more. Later, when I came out secretly, I met my father. He told me not to talk nonsense and said that I heard it wrong. You can't tell anyone else now!"

Her voice became even lower. Although she was naive, she was not ignorant. This kind of destiny thing was not something that could be discussed casually, and it was a matter of life and death.

She couldn't believe there was such a thing as "being destined to marry the emperor". Shao Wanru frowned. Although Zhang Qilan said that she had just accidentally heard it, Shao Wanru believed that someone had said that.

"Don't worry. I won't tell anyone. The men in the room didn't speak loudly, so I faintly heard the words of destiny, daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion, etc. After that, I didn't dare to listen more." When Zhang Qilan recalled it, she still felt lingering fears. When she came out from the back, she realized that there were guards in front, but they weren't the guards of her mansion.

"I heard that the host of Huaguang Temple is proficient in Dharma and he is very famous!" Shao Wanru said thoughtfully.

"They said so. I don't know if it's true!" Zhang Qilan said disapprovingly, reaching out and holding Shao Wanru, "Look, they are almost finished. Let's go back to the flower hall!"

Shao Wanru looked up at the few girls in the line and nodded.

When they returned to the flower hall, the nannies were calling the roll. They were divided into two parts, one on the left and one on the right.

Chapter 734 The Pavilion Where She Had Lived in Her Previous Life

The number of beauties on the left and right was almost the same, but the girls on the left were better than the girls on the right in terms of temperament, looks, and overall feeling.

As the nanny was calling the roll, Shao Wanru and Zhang Qilan stood on the left. Shao Yanru had already stood there early. Even Shao Caihuan was there, but Shao Cailing was on the right. Shao Wanru just glanced at it and knew how it was. Those on the right should be the girls who had lost. It was not surprising that Shao Cailing lost. She was surprised that Shao Caihuan was also selected.

"Fifth Sister, where have you been? We two have been looking for you for a long time." Shao Yanru, a decent eldest sister, naturally walked over and asked softly.

"I met Miss Zhang and we chatted for a while. I'm sorry!" Shao Wanru said.

"It's OK. Let's wait!" Shao Yanru whispered with a smile. She looked at Shao Caihuan who was standing next to her and felt very uncomfortable.

As expected, after dividing all the beauties into two sides, a Nanny in-charge came out and told the beauties on the right that they were unsuccessful. She asked them to pack up their things and go back now.

They had just entered the palace and put down their things. Now they were driven back. Some girls were shocked, and some were crying, and some were very happy. They hurriedly went back to pack their things and hoped that they could go back home just in time for dinner.

When all the beauties on the right left, there was instantly more space in the flower hall. Shao Wanru secretly looked around the remaining beauties. No matter what they were thinking, at least their faces were very calm. Compared to the various postures of beauties on the right when they left, these beauties were better at hiding their emotions.

She lowered her head, looked down at her toes, and quietly listened to Nanny in-charge talking about the various rules in the palace. She warned them that the scope of their activities would be here in Chuxiu Palace. If they weren't obedient and offended the nobles in the palace, they would have to bear the consequences.

She was implying that was not just their own business, because it might implicate their family.

As soon as she said it, the beauties became dead silent, and some of their faces became pale with fright. The uneasy atmosphere made the originally calm scene a little less peaceful.

After the Nanny in-charge threatened them, she said that the next thing for the beauties was to receive various etiquette training. Among them, painters would draw portraits for them, and then they would be sent to the empress for selection.

After Nanny in-charge finished the speech, she dismissed these beauties. It was the first day they had entered the palace today. These beauties were also very tired. All courses would start tomorrow.

After Nanny in-charge announced that they were dismissed, everyone relaxed, and they walked out together in twos and threes. At least they had passed the first hurdle. Shao Wanru, Zhang Qilan, and other beauties walked back together. They two walked together for a certain distance and fell behind the crowd to chat with each other.

Outside the crowd, Qi Rongzhi looked at Shao Wanru with complicated eyes. Seeing that the latter hadn't noticed her, she lowered her head and followed the crowd.

She also came to run for the draft, and she had indeed been selected, but she had no idea what would happen next. After three years at the Duke Xing's Mansion, she was no longer the arrogant girl she had used to be when she was in Jiangzhou. Shao Yanru was excellent, but now she had to admit that Shao Wanru was also excellent. She was excellent enough to make her jealous. She was even more jealous of Shao Wanru than Shao Yanru.

Both of them came from the same place. She was better than Shao Wanru at the beginning. She had looked down on Shao Wanru very much. She thought that Shao Wanru was just an orphan adopted by General Qin on the battlefield. She hadn't expected that when she came to the capital, she turned into the hereditary eldest daughter of the former Heir of Duke Xing.

Even though she had tried her best, she could only get the title of a goddaughter of Madam of Duke Xing and she had missed a chance to get married because of such a title.

Why could Shao Wanru live so well? After she just saw Shao Wanru's soft smiling face, she felt more upset. But no matter how upset she was, she now knew the gap between them and didn't take the initiative to suck up to her. Her eldest brother said that the daughters of Duke Xing's Mansion should be there when she entered the palace draft this time and told her to be careful. Miss Shao was a calculating girl, and Shao Wanru was not easy to deal with too.

She decided to avoid them now. She wanted to see how they would kneel in front of her begging for mercy when she became successful in the future.

After making up her mind, Qi Rongzhi became more reluctant to be noticed by the young ladies of Duke Xing's Mansion. Her elder brother told her to keep it low-key and said he would arrange everything.

The house she lived in was located in the far back area. There was almost no one coming along the way. Most of them left were staying in the front near the Chuxiu Palace gate.

She was no match for them, but this was her only chance. Even if her status was low, she would have to marry into the prince's mansion. This was her only chance. She had been delayed for so long, and her status wasn't high, and her family wasn't distinguished. Now with her age, marriage was even more difficult for her.

She sat in the room silently and gritted her teeth...

Shao Wanru didn't know that Qi Rongzhi had also entered for the draft, and wanted to marry into the prince's mansion just like Shao Yanru. She talked to Zhang Qilan and walked very slowly. By the time they broke up, the two of them had fallen far behind. The girls in front were gone.

After saying goodbye to Zhang Qilan, Shao Wanru turned around to go back to her residence, only to see Xiao Xuanzi's smiling face at the intersection in front of her. So she could only move forward.

"Fifth Miss, our prince invites you over!" Xiao Xuanzi smiled and came out from behind the bushes where he had been hiding, and bowed respectfully to Shao Wanru.

"Now?" Shao Wanru looked at the sky. Although it was not night yet, the sun was setting. It got dark early in winter.

"Yes, now, but it will be over soon." Xiao Xuanzi smiled and stretched out his hand to lead the way.

Looking at him, she knew that she had to go. Shao Wanru reluctantly moved forward. After a round of selection, those who had failed were still packing their things, and those who hadn't left were resting. There was no palace maid in sight. The palace gate was quiet.

Shao Wanru followed Xiao Xuanzi out of the gate of Chuxiu Palace and went outside. After walking for a while, she found that the route did not look like the way to the back door of Prince Chen's Mansion where Chu Liuchen lived.

"Where are we going now?"

"The prince is waiting for you ahead. We are almost there!" Xiao Xuanzi smiled and pointed with his finger ahead. Shao Wanru looked in the direction he was pointing and saw a familiar pavilion, just behind the rockery in front. She tightened her grip on the handkerchief in her hand and slowed down.

How could she not know the pavilion in front of her? In her previous life, she had lived here after entering the palace. It was close to Chuxiu Palace, and it was very convenient for the beauties to come over and draw portraits.

At that time, four painters were responsible for painting the palace maids, three men, and one woman. She was one of them, but the other three lived in another place, far away from her. Only she lived in the pavilion ahead.

There was a reason why she was separated from other painters. On the one hand, she was a girl, and only three painters could live there. On the other hand, Qi Baiyu helped her in secret and found her such a quiet residence so that she wouldn't have to share the house with others. "The prince... why is he here?"

"This was the place for our prince to rest. It is also close to the side door of Prince Chen's Mansion. The Empress Dowager was afraid that our prince would be tired from walking sometimes and had no place to rest, so she gave this place to him to rest!" Xiao Xuanzi said nonchalantly.

Shao Wanru's fingers holding the handkerchief trembled as something seemed to flash through her mind. "The prince... has been using it?"

"Yes, the prince has been using it all the time. People in this palace know that the whole building is arranged by the prince himself. The prince likes it very much. Other nobles in the palace know it. But now there are so many people, so he may not come over very often!" Xiao Xuanzi said.

He led Shao Wanru along the winding path. It looked right in front of them, but in fact, it was still some distance away. "Is it possible that your prince doesn't want the pavilion anymore..." Shao Wanru said, "Or is he going to give this place to someone else to live in?"

"How is it possible? The prince likes this place the most. It is better than the palace where he lived before, and that palace is still vacant. Empress Dowager said that our prince can sometimes live in the palace and doesn't have to go back. But he doesn't want to. He would rather rest here for one night sometimes than go back to the palace where he lived when he was a child!" Xiao Xuanzi shook his head repeatedly.

The handkerchief was wet with sweat in Shao Wanru's palm, and she could sense the slight dampness. Her fingers moved slowly, with a feeling of stiffness that she hadn't moved for many years. "In the draft in Chuxiu Palace, I heard that they were looking for painters to paint the portraits. It is so close to Chuxiu Palace... Will this place be used by the painter for painting the beauties?"

Shao Wanru heard her extremely calm voice. Her voice sounded calm to an outsider, but for her, she felt as if she were not saying this. "No, everyone in this palace knows that it belongs to our prince. Even the empress won't give the order to use this place." Xiao Xuanzi laughed, thinking that Fifth Miss Shao was really interesting today. She was asking the prince to give up this place, which was different from the past. Could it be that she was implying something?

Thinking about this, Xiao Xuanzi tentatively asked, "Fifth Miss, do you want to live here?"

Xiao Xuanzi thought that she might want to live here. This place was much better than the Chuxiu Palace. Of course, if someone asked this question, Xiao Xuanzi would think it was too whimsical, and the prince would never give up this place. But if it was Fifth Miss Shao, Xiao Xuanzi thought this shouldn't be a big problem.

"No, I'd better live over there." Shao Wanru shook her head. She had no right to ask him to do that. She certainly wouldn't have such thoughts.

After thinking about it, she still felt weird, "Does the prince dislike this place?"

Chapter 735 Who Is Lay Buddhist at Weiyu Pavilion?

"How could the prince not like this place? He handpicked some of the decorations here. Even if he doesn't like it, he won't give it to others," Xiao Xuanzi said disapprovingly. The prince had lived here for quite a long time, and he liked many things in it very much, and he had even chosen some rare ones himself.

The door was right in front without anyone guarding it. It looked empty, and the room didn't seem big when she looked in. But Shao Wanru knew that after entering the door, there was a staircase to the right. The upper floor was where she had used to live. There was good lighting. The scenery was also good. In her previous life, she was in a daze on it when she was free.

Compared to other experiences, being in a daze in the attic seemed to be the quietest scene in her memory. After going up the stairs and entering the room, she saw a large wicker chair in the window, facing the sun and the window sill. There were a few red plums in a delicate vase.

The light-colored curtains were hung high, and the veils were also half-hung on one side. The hanging sides were silver plum-shaped with a plum-shaped center and a little stamen made of opal fragments, which was very beautiful and elegant.

Shao Wanru trembled almost uncontrollably. This scene was the same as the scene she had seen in her memory. It was the same scene as she had seen when she was brought here that day.

How shocked she was at that time, because everything in front of her was too quiet and perfect, and she could hardly restrain herself from liking it.

After she moved in, she didn't dare or want to move anything here. Everything was set up as before, and even the wicker chair by the window was kept in that same position.

In her two lives, how could she not be excited to see this place again?

Everything seemed to be back at the starting point, but she didn't know anything. Her eyes turned red inexplicably. Did she forget the most important thing? "What's the matter?" There came a gentle voice and it was Chu Liuchen.

"Is it your favorite place, Your Highness?" She sniffed hard and decided in her heart before turning around to look at Chu Liuchen with a smile.

"It's not bad here." Chu Liuchen's eyes fell on Shao Wanru's eye sockets. His eyes darkened a bit when he saw her teary eyes.

He went to the big wicker chair in front of the window and sat down. He raised his eyes to look at Shao Wanru, and pointed at the smaller wicker chair beside him, and said, "Sit here!"

Shao Wanru noticed that there was a small wicker chair in front of the big wicker chair. She had been too excited to notice it just now. So it was different. At least in her previous life, there was no such a small wicker chair.

She took a deep breath, walked over, and sat down gracefully on the wicker chair. She raised her eyes to look at Chu Liuchen, and saw him squinting his eyes and looking rather lazily in the big wicker chair. She felt sorry.

Xiao Xuanzi brought them tea and retreated to the door with a grin. After thinking about it, he went downstairs to prepare cakes. Fifth Miss had just come back from the draft, so she should be hungry now. "Have you just been wronged?" Chu Liuchen asked casually.

His question came from nowhere, but Shao Wanru understood it all at once. She shook her head, and lowered her head, blushing, "There was a nanny just now... is she your...?"

Her words were also very vague. It was really hard to say it. How could she ask whether the nanny who had cut her some slack at the first hurdle was Chu Liuchen's people? When she thought about how she had passed the first hurdle, she couldn't help blushing. How could a girl say that?

Chu Liuchen clearly understood, and he looked at her with a smile and said, "Did she give you a hard time?"

"No!" Shao Wanru blushed even more. In that situation, this was the best. At least she was allowed to keep her underwear.

"Next, there will be painters to paint you. Do you want to get painted earlier or later?" Chu Liuchen looked at Shao Wanru's blushing face in a very good mood. It was rare to see this girl look like this.

"Don't interfere with this kind of thing!" Shao Wanru shook her head and refused.

Whether she was among the first or last ones, it was not a good thing. If the beauty of the draft stood out before the conclusion, she would be more likely to be framed, especially when there was ambitious Shao Yanru around. She could be sure that Shao Yanru would make trouble for her.

She was not afraid of Shao Yanru, but she didn't want to get Chu Liuchen in trouble.

"It's not a big deal. Even if I intervene, the empress won't say anything. My Grandmother will explain it clearly to her!" Chu Liuchen said disapprovingly.

He didn't want to comment on Shao Wanru. Since he had decided to marry her, it was enough for him to know whether she was good or bad.

He had wanted to ask the Imperial Grandmother to grand their marriage directly, but his grandmother decided that she'd better go through the procedure first.

"I don't think that's a good idea." Shao Wanru shook her head and refused.

When she saw the picture on another counter, she stood up, walked over, and looked at the signature of "Lay Buddhist at Weiyu Pavilion" on the scroll.

Her trembling fingers flicked across the paper, "Where is Weiyu Pavilion?"

"It's a courtyard in the south of the Yangtze River. I've been there before, and I think it's good!" Chu Liuchen didn't hide it. He smiled and asked, "Why, do you know it's me?"

Shao Wanru had asked this question that day, but he just made a perfunctory remark. As for the name, he had just said it casually and didn't take it to heart. After that, he asked someone to carve him a seal and used it. When he painted later, he liked to use this signature.

It had no special meaning. "I... don't know, but this name... sounds beautiful!" Shao Wanru lowered her head and slid her fingers across the signature, trying to conceal the excitement and tears in her eyes. She pressed her other hand on the corner of the table. The joints on the back of her hand were protruding from the exertion.

She was really stupid. It turned out that the missing piece of her memory was Chu Liuchen. It turned out that they didn't meet for the first time in this life. They had seen each other in the last life.

Some of her painting skills had been taught by Chu Liuchen, but she had forgotten about him. She couldn't remember anything about him, or how nice he had been to her!

Thousands of thoughts surged in her heart, making her hardly know what to say or how she felt. Was she sad, happy, or even excited?

"Originally I was thinking about changing the name. I thought it sounded good, so I just used it. You seem to have asked before. I guess my paintings have not yet been stolen!" Chu Liuchen also walked over, and looked at Shao Wanru with beautiful eyes, with an elegant faint smile on his face.

He acted as if he hadn't noticed the excitement that Shao Wanru showed, but his eyes were deep. He didn't have many paintings. He had taken this name casually. How did Shao Wanru know it?

She asked the question the last time, and now she was asking it again. It seemed that she was trying to hide something, but he would not ask. Chu Liuchen was still very satisfied with Shao Wanru's bluntness. A very gentle smile slowly overflowed in his eyes. He stretched out his hand and gently touched the top of Shao Wanru's hair, and said softly, "In the future, if you want to come over, come by yourself. I've given the order here."

His voice was very gentle, even with a bit of pampering tone that Shao Wanru could hear. She subconsciously raised her head and saw Chu Liuchen's loving eyes.

His eyes were beautiful. The slanting light of the setting sun fell on the corner of his eyes gently. He blinked, and his long eyelashes flickered, which made her heart tremble. It was soft, sour, and even astringent as if there was a voice repeating his name again and again.

Her eyes turned red involuntarily, and she could not hold back her tears anymore. She stretched out a hand to hold his sleeve and bit her lip, trying to suppress the sadness, sorrow, moving, or other

emotions at the bottom of her heart. She could explain it clearly. She could only feel tears falling down her face uncontrollably.

In her memory, Chu Liuchen was fierce and violent. The palace was full of blood, and the gorgeous beauties were lying on the ground or on the steps. The bloody steps paved his way to imperial power, so she had always kept a watchful eye on him. Even though the relationship between the two had changed a lot unknowingly, she was still a little on guard.

After her rebirth, she was careful with every step, for fear of making any mistake and ending up with a terrible fate as in her last life. Even though she was sad and crying, she had to suppress herself fiercely, trying to make her heart cold and staggering alone on this road that led to nowhere, no matter how lonely and fearful it would be!

Under the shadow of her previous life, even though she had always acted as a strong woman in front of others, and even tried to keep everything in her hands, she was still a vulnerable girl.

She was afraid she would make the same mistake again. But right now, she didn't want to think about anything else. She just wanted to cry presumptuously, even in front of Chu Liuchen who she had been wary of.

She had thought she was reborn, and she was fearless of anything. A person who died once should be the strongest. She had never thought that she would be so fragile and out of control, and she was crying so uncontrollably.

She should have apologized to him. Chu Liuchen had appeared in her life in the last life and showed her kindness. He had even taught her how to paint and gave her a place to rest. However, she was notorious at the time and was also an inauspicious person. If she hadn't entered the palace, she might have been drowned by others.

After all, Wen Xichi had died at that time, and she was helpless and didn't even have a home. She was even kicked out by Wen Mansion with such a reputation. If Wen Mansion had any follow-up actions, she would have probably been killed.

With the people at Duke Xing's Mansion behind it, her fate was doomed.

She had never thought before that Qi Baiyu did not have that great ability. Even if he set foot on officialdom at that time, he couldn't do that. He had a general at his back, but even so, it would have been impossible for him to meddle with things in the palace or even send her to the palace to paint portraits for the beauties.

Chapter 736 Those Memories That Had Been Missing

If no one had strongly recommended her, she would not have been able to enter the palace at that time. Regardless of Chu Liuchen's personality, he had always been kind to her and even saved her. He had been very good to her, but she had forgotten him. She had forgotten all the memories of his goodness. She remembered nothing but the warmth, which showed that they had gotten along very well at the time.

But she had forgotten everything! "I'm sorry, I'm sorry!" Shao Wanru couldn't suppress herself crying, and her whole body was trembling. She tried to raise her eyes hard to see Chu Liuchen's face.

He had treated her very well in the last life, but she didn't return his kindness. Chu Liuchen was startled by Shao Wanru's sudden cry. He stretched out his hand as if he wanted to touch her face, but he was worried that she would be scared. He frowned and looked at her with concern. He suddenly reached out to pull her into her arms and softly conformed her, "Okay, stop crying. Tell me what's wrong, and I'll take revenge for you!"

Shao Wanru's face was full of tears, and she was cuddling on his chest with mixed emotions and listening to the sound of his heartbeat, which was steady and powerful. She suddenly felt even more aggrieved. She shouldn't feel aggrieved. He was the one who should feel aggrieved after all. He should have treated her very well in the previous life, but she had somehow forgotten about him and didn't remember anything but that Qi Baiyu had helped her with everything here. Without him, how could she have taken shelter in this corner of the palace and lived a fairly peaceful life?

He had made everything possible, but she had forgotten him. She thought she should apologize to him, but she just couldn't say it. "I... I'm not..." She wanted to explain that no one had deceived her and that she had deceived him, but she couldn't say it. The complex and sad emotions entangled her and filled her chest, and even made her feel confused.

Xiao Xuanzi ran up from downstairs in a panic and saw his master holding Shao Wanru. He sneaked downstairs. Although he didn't know what had happened, his master's face looked very distressed and gentle, and he was different from before when his smile wasn't necessarily genuine. Xiao Xuanzi could see clearly that the prince treated Fifth Miss Shao differently from others long before!

"Okay, don't cry, or it sounds like that I've done something inappropriate to you!" Chu Liuchen said softly. Seeing Shao Wanru crying out of control in his arms, he felt both angry and happy. He stretched out her hands and hugged her vigorously. This time she did not resist. She snuggled quietly in his arms, which was inexplicably satisfying to him. There was a soft spot in his heart. As long as she didn't cry, she could do anything! "Don't cry, huh!"

He lowered his head and looked at the beautiful young girl in hazy tears. His thin lips fell on her gently. Shao Wanru was surprised by Liuchen's soft kiss on her lips. It was very gentle and soft. Under her long eyelashes, her crying eyes blinked in surprise. She should push him away at this time. Even if there was an agreement between them, she should push him away now. Otherwise, she would violate the daughter's warns and female discipline that she had learned for many years!

But she was unwilling to reach out to push him away. In the previous life and this life, she didn't know what it was like, but she just didn't want to push him away. After her rebirth, her heart had never been so uncontrollable. Chu Liuchen seems to sense Shao Wanru's acceptance, and he uncontrollably increased the intensity of his hands. This time his lips were more passionate as if there were thousands of gushing emotions...

The two were separated after a long time. Shao Wanru was in Chu Liuchen's arms. Although she was still sobbing, she was not crying. Not only was she not crying, but she was blushing. His hands were twining around Chu Liuchen's cuffs subconsciously and flushing with shame. Chu Liuchen lowered his head slightly, only to see the top of her black hair pulled up by a simple hairpin. A trace of joy appeared on his thin lips. "Zhuozhuo, you like me!"

His low-pitched voice, which was different from his clear and bright voice in the past, made Shao Wanru blush more, but what made her blush even more was Chu Liuchen's joyful and trembling words. When had Chu Liuchen, who seemed to have everything under his control, ever spoken in a trembling voice? His hands around her waist were tightening, and Shao Wanru felt that her thin waist was almost broken. She took a deep breath and gently pushed him, beckoning him to let go.

"Zhuzhuo, I like you!" His hands were slightly relaxed, which allowed Shao Wanru to take a few breaths easily, and then heard his muffled voice in her ear. Chu Liuchen's head was lowered and rested on Shao Wanru's shoulders. After saying these words, he seemed to relax suddenly. He smiled slightly. Whether it was a deal or not, and whether he was interested and happy or not, at this moment of relaxation, he understood it immediately.

Somehow he had just fallen in love with her. He had felt very close to her, but if he didn't tell her, he would never know how it felt. "Zhuzhuo, I like you!" He affirmed it once again, without any hesitation. Now that he had fallen in love with her, he would naturally let her know it. There was joy in this affirmation, and it was more like a domineering declaration, or an anxious expression of his love. He raised his head and gently kissed her blushing earlobe. The soft-touch made Shao Wanru's heart tremble, and she involuntarily squeezed his sleeves with her hands. She thought for a while, nodded gently, and drove away all the hesitation in her heart.

This was an indescribable feeling that she had never experienced in the past. Her heart was beating fiercely. She almost thought that her heart was about to jump out of her throat. But she was extremely happy and careless. Originally, she had only wanted to be his shield, and she had been willing to be his shield and leave when he wanted her to. Now she no longer wanted to leave or be his shield. Or even if she was his shield, she wanted it to be permanent. There were some things that she hadn't thought about or understood. But now looking back, she realized that he had done a lot for her, and she had always thought that he was calculating.

"Your Highness... Your Highness... Empress Dowager asks you to go over!" Xiao Xuanzi went upstairs again, stood at the top of the stairs, and reported it from a distance. Shao Wanru woke up suddenly. She reached out and pushed Chu Liuchen away almost in a panic. When Chu Liuchen staggered a few steps after being pushed, she hurriedly tightened her grip on his sleeves. Chu Liuchen hadn't expected that Shao Wanru would push him suddenly. He took two steps backward before he steadied himself.

"Your Highness..." Xiao Xuanzi said anxiously. He was startled when he heard the voice. When he looked up, he happened to see Chu Liuchen staggering back a few steps. "Go down first!" Chu Liuchen flicked his sleeve. Xiao Xuanzi didn't dare to say more and went downstairs in a hurry. He didn't want to come up. He knew that Fifth Miss Shao was aggrieved and the prince was comforting her at this time, but he had to go upstairs to report it, even though he would be criticized. The messenger sent by Empress Dowager was downstairs, and he was also afraid that Fifth Miss Shao would suddenly cry like before. He was afraid that if the messenger of Empress Dowager heard it, there would be trouble.

"You're not crying?" Chu Liuchen grabbed Shao Wanru's small hand tightly grasping his cuff and said with a smile.

"..." Shao Wanru didn't know what to say for a while. She bit her lips, and lowered her head.

"Okay, don't cry. Look at your swollen eyes. If someone sees them, they will probably accuse me of bullying you!" Chu Liuchen laughed. He reached out and lifted her chin, looked at her face. He looked passionate and gentle with a smile.

"I'm sorry... Will it be bad for you?..." Shao Wanru blushed, stretched out her hand, and patted his hand. She lowered her head again, and at this time she was at a loss. She didn't know what she was going to do right now. She had always been able to control the situation, but now she felt confused as if she couldn't remember anything.

"It's okay. Don't let people think that someone is bullying you! I'll go to see Imperial Grandmother. If you have anything in the future, you can come here to find help. Those who stay all work for me."

Chu Liuchen smiled lightly, and when his eyes glided across the corners of Shao Wanru's red lips, his eyes darkened. Shao Wanru's red lips had always been brighter than others. At this time, they were bright and slightly swollen.

"Then you go!" Shao Wanru said, reaching out and pushing him gently, and her mind slowly became clear. Now that Empress Dowager was looking for him at this time, and Xiao Xuanzi went up specifically to report it, there must be something wrong.

"Okay, I'll have someone take you back!" Chu Liuchen said with a big smile. He was in a very good mood.

"No, thanks. There will be gossip if someone sees me!" Shao Wanru shook her head and refused.

"What's wrong? The Imperial Grandmother has known that you are my girl, and my uncle also knows it. Now that the two of them know it, who dares to say anything? My girl is different from them!" Chu Liuchen said arrogantly.

His arrogant attitude was extremely weird and uncoordinated with his elegant voice. Shao Wanru couldn't help but laugh out loud. Such a bully tone didn't fit the image of the gentle and elegant prince! Seeing that she finally laughed, Chu Liuchen smiled too, and he said in a very good mood, "You go back first. You can come here anytime, but if you want to see me... you have to make an appointment in advance!"

When he said that, Shao Wanru's face flushed, "I don't want to see you!"

"But I want to see you!" Chu Liuchen laughed, and suddenly reached out and hugged Shao Wanru again. This time he moved extremely fast. Before Shao Wanru could react, he had withdrawn his hands.

Shao Wanru's face flushed again. She bit her lips to suppress the shame in her heart, calmed down a little, and changed the topic, "Do you know what's the destiny to marry the emperor?"

"Destiny to marry the emperor? What is that?" Chu Liuchen turned his head to look at her.

Chapter 737 She Saw Shao Yanru's Confidant from Her Last Life Again

Shao Wanru lowered her head more, and hurriedly said, "I heard it from Prime Minister Zhang's daughter. She told me that she heard someone in Huaguang Temple say that someone was destined to marry the emperor, and they mentioned Shao Yanru!" She and Shao Yanru didn't get along well with each other. Chu Liuchen knew about it all the time, so she didn't need to hide it from him or put on a show of her deep affection with Shao Yanru in front of him.

Chu Liuchen didn't rush to answer. He pulled her back to the wicker chair before, and then leisurely pulled the wicker chair he had been sitting on to Shao Wanru's side to lean against hers, and then sat down. "Shao Wanru is destined to marry the emperor?" He asked after sitting down. Shao Wanru looked up, saw his casual eyes, and nodded. "It's true, Zhang Qilan said she had heard it. Guards were guarding the room, but it was not her father."

"Destined to marry the emperor? That's a good idea!" Chu Liuchen thought about it seriously and suddenly smiled. Destined to marry the emperor? It meant that she was going to marry a man who was destined to become the emperor. Now that the choice of crown prince was still up in the air and his uncle's thoughts were difficult to predict. Yet Chu Liuchen could guess what it was. The so-called "destined to marry the emperor" was a good idea!

"You didn't know?" Shao Wanru asked. She had previously guessed whether it was Chu Liuchen's men who released the news. She couldn't tell whether the so-called destiny to marry the emperor would turn out to be good or not.

"I haven't figured out how to deal with your mansion. Zhuozhuo, what do you think?" Chu Liuchen smiled and his voice was very calm. It was really hard to imagine from his voice that he was an extremely ambitious man.

"Maybe later!" Shao Wanru lowered her head and thought. The blush on her face slowly receded, and a trace of hostility flashed in her eyes. If it was like what she had guessed, the death of her parents was related to the current second branch, she would never spare Duke Xing's Mansion.

"If you say so, so be it. As for this destiny to marry the emperor, you don't have to worry about it. Since someone has released such a wind, he is naturally up to something big. It could be Duke Xing's Mansion or Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou. But no matter who it is, you should not interfere in this matter!" Chu Liuchen said.

Shao Wanru was scared when she heard it, but she knew that this was the case. The so-called destiny to marry the emperor must involve a lot, which was not something that a young girl like her could intervene with. Even if she was reborn, she was in no position to say anything about such a major event in the court.

She nodded. "I won't talk about it anymore!"

"That's good. Do you want to rest here for a while or go back now?" Chu Liuchen smiled and then talked about other things.

"I'll go back first. It's been a long time since I came out. If I don't go back, I'm afraid Yujie will look for me!" Shao Wanru stood up and looked at the road outside the window. The sun was setting outside the window. It was going to get dark. If Yujie saw the others girls come back without her, she must be flustered.

"It's okay. I sent someone to inform your maid!" Chu Liuchen stood up with a smile, and looked down at Shao Wanru, "Why not stay here for dinner before leaving?"

"I'll go back. Shao Yanru will be suspicious!" Shao Wanru's face blushed inexplicably. The traces of affection in Chu Liuchen's words made her feel ashamed to stay for a while. Besides, there were some things that she had to go back and think about thoroughly.

"Well then, I'll have someone take you back!" Chu Liuchen said softly.

"No need. There will be gossip if someone sees it!" Shao Wanru thought for a while and thought she'd better refuse. "Chuxiu Palace is not far from here, and you can see it from here." Although she hadn't looked out at the scenery at the window just now, she had always stood there in her last life. She was not surprised that she could see Chuxiu Palace at a glance from that position.

"Okay, then be careful on your way back!" Chu Liuchen thought for a while and decided it was true, so he agreed.

He took her hand to the top of the stairs, squeezed her hand slightly, and then watched her go downstairs.

"Your Highness, the Empress Dowager's man is urging you again!" Xiao Xuanzi went upstairs again and saw Chu Liuchen standing at the small window of the stairs looking out, and gently reminded him. The palace servant sent by Empress Dowager had been taken inside to wait, so he didn't see Fifth Miss Shao coming downstairs. But he kept paying attention to the outside and saw the guard made a gesture to him. He knew that she was gone and then went upstairs to report again.

"Check when Prime Minister Zhang went to Huaguang Temple, who else went there, and who asked for the host of Huaguang Temple to tell his fortune," Chu Liuchen said lightly with his hands behind his back. This kind of thing was actually not difficult to check. The host of Huaguang Temple told fortune for visitors, which had been legendary for a long time. It was also rumored that he told fortune very accurately, but rarely did it for others!

"Yes, I will check this out soon!" Xiao Xuanzi replied, knowing that the prince must have discovered something again.

Chu Liuchen walked down. "Send someone to protect Fifth Miss in secret." Qing'er didn't follow Shao Wanru into the palace. It was naturally inconvenient for the two guards under her to enter the palace, but he could send someone to protect her here.

"Your Highness, this is in the palace..." Xiao Xuanzi did not respond quickly this time. Instead, he reminded the prince carefully.

His men in the palace rarely did anything, and only did it at the most critical time.

"I know that it is in the palace. What's the point if I can't protect my own woman in the palace!" Chu Liuchen said coldly. The light at the entrance of the stairs dimmed, and his handsome face seemed to be hidden in the darkness with a breath of coldness and cruelty. Xiao Xuanzi shivered in fright, and hurriedly said, "Yes, I will get right on it!"

When Shao Wanru came back, the gate of Chuxiu Palace was not very quiet. Some ladies who were leaving the palace were coming out. Soft sedan chairs had been placed at the gate, and some of them were seen off by their friends. Some were crying, some were laughing, and some were alone. Shao Wanru stood at the door, frowned, and looked at a palace maid. Her eyes twitched suddenly because

she knew the palace maid. She did not only know her but also remembered very clearly her last memory the palace maid. She followed Shao Yanru around as her court maid and confidant.

In her last life, she saw her with Shao Yanru every time. She was Shao Yanru's most powerful accomplice!

"Where have you been, Fifth Sister?" Shao Yanru and Shao Caihuan were seeing Shao Cailing off at the door. Suddenly they turned their heads and saw Shao Wanru. They immediately walked over. "Fourth Sister is leaving. She just wanted to say goodbye to you, but could not find you!" Shao Yanru looked worried.

Shao Caihuan sneered. She felt that Shao Yanru was indeed the daughter with the best reputation in her house. She was quite eloquent as if she had always been the most gentle and decent lady. As for the others, of course, they were just her foil. On the one hand, she implied that Shao Wanru didn't know good manners, so she ran around in the palace. If something happened, it might implicate her family. On the other hand, she suggested that Shao Cailing was also shameless. She had all been driven out, yet she still tried to find various reasons to stay here.

"Eldest Sister, I didn't say that I was waiting for Fifth Sister or looking for her. I just can't bear to say goodbye to Third Sister. I wanted to chat with her for a while. The third Sister is upset in the palace alone." Shao Cailing doesn't like to talk. But it didn't mean that she was fond of Shao Yanru. As someone who had failed the court draft, she immediately became annoyed and raised her eyebrows after hearing Shao Yanru's words.

"Oh, Fourth Sister, I'm sorry. I thought you were waiting for Fifth Sister, so you deliberately had a chat with Third Sister." Shao Yanru smiled and explained softly. She wasn't irritated by Shao Cailing's sudden hostility.

Compared to Shao Cailing, she was more dignified and decent. At the same time, she also made Shao Cailing look very unreasonable.

"You..." Shao Cailing was angry. She wanted to say something but was stopped by Shao Caihuan who squeezed her gently and motioned her to shut up.

Shao Cailing was respectful of her sister. "Fourth Sister, you go back first. Please take care of Mother. When I come back in the future, I will take good care of her too. She is not in good health. One of our sisters should stay in the house to take care of her!" Shao Caihuan was much subtler than Shao Cailing, and her words were decent. Regarding Shao Cailing's failure in the draft, she only said that someone should stay to take care of the Third Madam. She spoke a lot of filial piety. Madam of Duke Xing was still in Yuhui Nunnery now, and she had heard that she was in poor health, but Shao Yanru turned a blind eye to it. The sisters in the third branch seemed to be more filial.

If there were many daughters of an aristocratic family selected in the first round, it was true that they could have secretly spoken to someone in the palace. Anyway, if it was impossible for a girl to be selected in the end, why not send her home early? It sounded like that Shao Cailing was leaving the palace according to the agreement, not because she was not good enough. It was a better excuse that was harmless to Shao Cailing. There were so many outstanding sisters. She, Fourth Miss Shao, took the

initiative to leave, which was impeccable behavior. Besides, her purpose was to go home to serve her sick mother, and it made her look more filial!

Shao Yanru hadn't expected that the two sisters who didn't talk much before turned out to be so ferocious in their conversation. She was annoyed. She should have discussed it with their grandmother that day and sent the two sisters home in the first round so that Shao Caihuan wouldn't pretend to be more filial than her now. "Fourth Sister is a filial daughter!" Shao Yanru said with envy.

"Eldest Sister, Third Sister, Fifth Sister, I'm going. Goodbye!" When Shao Cailing saw that Shao Yanru no longer focused on the subject, she put a curb on her temper. After all, the third branch had always been very scared of the second branch, and Shao Cailing had just blurted it out in anger. If it weren't for the fact that she was the only one that was to be sent home and she was in a bad mood, she would not have dared to contradict Shao Yanru.

At this time, she calmed down and naturally became friendlier. After saluting them, she took the maid onto a soft sedan chair in front of the palace. "Where did you go, Fifth Sister? Could there be someone you know in the palace?" After Shao Cailing left, Shao Yanru turned and looked at Shao Wanru with a smile.

She was implying something. Even Shao Caihuan became attentive to their conversation!

Chapter 738 It's the Protective Talisman I Just Got. This Is for You!

"Where could I go? I just walked around, because I felt a little bored!" Shao Wanru shook her head and smiled lightly. Then she just ignored them, turned, and walked inside. When she passed the palace maid standing at the door, she took a special look at her. It turned out that she was the loyal maid who followed Shao Yanru around back then.

Seeing Shao Wanru glancing at her, the palace maid bowed respectfully. She had been standing behind them to the right just now and happened to hear their conversation. There were plenty of maids like her in the palace. But she was unwilling to stay in the palace until she was kicked out of the palace one day. This was Chuxiu Palace where anything was possible. If she could pick a promising master, then she would naturally have a better future. It required insight to choose one from so many beauties as her master in the future.

She stood at the door, trying to select a master who seemed promising. Although the ones who were sent home were all eliminated candidates, they were connected with the remaining young ladies who would inevitably send them off. Standing at the door and watching for so long, she felt that the most promising lady was the lady in the pale pink palace dress because she was very beautiful and such beauty would be selected. So she had deliberately approached Shao Yanru and learned that she was Miss Shao of Duke Xing's Mansion.

The lady had outstanding appearance and powerful background. Even when the maid was in the palace, she had also heard of the reputation of Miss Shao of Duke Xing's Mansion. Of course, such a woman had a boundless future.

But when she saw Shao Wanru and heard that she was Fifth Miss Shao, the maid hesitated and didn't know who she wanted to choose to be her master. Although she wasn't certain right now, it did not prevent her from treating the two young ladies with great kindness.

After saluting Shao Wanru, she saluted Shao Yanru who was walking behind her respectfully. Both of them seemed very promising. She, a little palace maid, couldn't afford to offend either of them. Shao Yanru didn't care about a little palace maid's fawning. She just glanced at her and followed Shao Wanru into the palace gate.

She didn't believe her excuse of just walking around. Shao Wanru was not a reckless girl. How could it be possible for her to go out and walk around on the first day when she knew little about the new environment? "Fifth Sister, Fourth Sister went back. There are only three of us sisters in the palace. We should take care of each other because we're all from Duke Xing's Mansion. We sisters have to join hands to go through the period."

Shao Yanru was suggesting that nobody knew what would happen next in the palace. Who would stay or be sent home was still unknown. In the face of the unknown future, the small group of mutual benefit should stick together. Indeed, Shao Yanru believed that no matter what Shao Wanru was up to, she was alone in the palace, and they should stick together against others.

Even if there was a discord between the two, they should at least put on a show of sisterhood now! "Eldest Sister, don't worry about it. I'm tired. Excuse me!" Shao Wanru said coldly. With that, she stood still and saluted Shao Yanru and Shao Caihuan, and then hurried forward. Shao Yanru was surprised because she hadn't expected Shao Wanru to be so disrespectful of her.

Shao Caihuan curled up her lips mockingly. "Eldest Sister, I have something to do too. I entered the palace today and I am really tired. Excuse me!" With that, she quickened her pace and moved forward. Shao Yanru was left alone behind.

She was left behind by the two girls. Shao Yanru turned pale and almost lost her temper. She took a deep breath to calm down and looked around. Some girls noticed them and began to gossip about them. She looked at the young ladies graciously, smiled calmly, and walked in as if she hadn't fought with her sisters and Shao Wanru and Shao Caihuan were really in a hurry.

Shao Caihuan caught up with Shao Wanru in a few steps, and said with a smile, "Fifth Sister, let's go together!"

"Where is the Eldest Sister?" Shao Wanru said calmly.

"A woman like Eldest Sister is always been dignified and decent. How can she walk as fast as we do?" Shao Caihuan curled her lips and said meaningfully. Shao Wanru took the hint.

"Fifth Sister, how is the view outside? I just wanted to go out for a walk, but Fourth Sister was leaving, so there was no time." Shao Caihuan and Shao Wanru walked side by side and the former asked curiously, "Is it beautiful?"

Shao Wanru thought about it for a while and said, "In fact, I was just around. I didn't dare to go far. I only saw a few rockeries and a few pavilions nearby. I didn't dare to go any farther!"

This sounded true. No one was a fool, and everyone knew that they couldn't walk around in the palace. "Why is your relationship with Miss Zhang so good? When did you meet Miss Zhang? Why didn't I know about it?" Shao Caihuan changed the subject and then asked about Zhang Qilan.

"We met in Yuhui Nunnery. Miss Zhang also lived in Yuhui Nunnery for a while." Shao Wanru did not conceal it. Such a thing could be concealed, and there was no need to conceal it. "Oh, it is a fun surprise!" Shao Caihuan smiled kindly, reached out her hand, and felt the sleeve of her shirt. She took out a small protective talisman and handed it to Shao Wanru. "Fifth Sister, it's the protective talisman I just got. This is for you!"

"Protective talisman, did you just get it?" Shao Wanru took it in surprise. It was a small protective talisman and an exquisite one. The bag on the outside was more delicate than any of those that she had seen before.

She had seen protective talismans of both Yuhui Nunnery and Huaguang Temple, but she had never seen one wrapped in such a delicate bag. This was no longer an ordinary protective talisman. The patterns drawn on it were more exquisite than any protective talisman she had seen before. "Yes, I just got it. I got one for you, and one for myself!" Shao Caihuan looked at the left and right in a low voice.

"Did you get it in the palace?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise. "Yes, I got it in the palace. I got it from a Nanny in-charge here," Shao Caihuan said more carefully.

"Why does Nanny in-charge in the palace has such a protective talisman? What does it mean?" Shao Wanru suddenly felt a weird feeling. Did the so-called protective talisman mean what she thought it meant?

"Do you know there is a Buddha hall in the palace? I asked the Nanny in-charge to get it from that Buddha hall. Of course, I paid a high price!" Shao Caihuan was quite triumphant. "Take it back and hang it around your neck and put it in your underwear. I heard that the effect is very good!"

That was to say, the Nanny in-charge collected money from the beauties, and then went to get the good-for-nothing protective talisman to fool them! Shao Wanru looked at the protective talisman in her hand speechlessly. "Do other beauties know?"

"It shouldn't be known to many people. I knew it by accident." Shao Caihuan shook her head affirmatively. "You should hide it carefully after you go back. Don't let others see it, especially our eldest sister. She might make a fuss about it!" Shao Yanru's reputation outside was excellent, but none of the sisters in the house thought she was good.

"Thank you, Third Sister!" Shao Wanru put the protective talisman in her sleeve and thanked her. She was sure that many beauties had bought the so-called protective talismans.

In her last life, she had discovered that the nanny in charge of Chuxiu Palace took bribes from the beauties and secretly helped them with things, which even involved hurting other beauties. This so-called protective talisman is naturally another form of bribe, but she didn't know if there was any problem with the protective talisman. The Buddha incense on it was quite faint.

It had indeed been offered before the Buddha. But it was only an offering, and Shao Wanru also detected another smell from under the Buddha incense. It was very faint, almost imperceptible. She was not even sure if she had smelled it.

When they were talking, they arrived at their residence, and both were tired. So they didn't say much and went into the room. Yujie had been waiting inside for a long time. Hearing Shao Wanru's voice, she walked out of the room early and was relieved to see Shao Wanru standing in front of her alive and well.

She still lived in the room at the end of the row, but Shao Cailing's room on the other side was vacant. "Smell it. Is there any smell on it?" Shao Wanru took out the protective talisman from her sleeve and handed it to Yujie.

Yujie took it, frowned carefully and thought about it, then nodded affirmatively. "Miss, there is a soothing Buddha scent in it, but there is also another kind of medicine that is too soothing. Too much of it will dull the reaction. Miss, where did you get it?"

"Third Sister gave it to me!" Shao Wanru sat down in the chair and whispered, "Does it just dull the reaction?"

If it was the case, there was nothing to be afraid of. Besides, it would take a long time to take effect. Even if someone discovers other medicinal smells on it, she wouldn't think there was anything wrong, especially if it was mixed in the same effect of Buddha incense.

"It not only dulls the reaction. If another medicine is used to trigger it, it may even lead to a foul disease!" Yujie sniffed again and said.

"What kind of foul disease?" Shao Wanru was shocked, and her eyes darkened. She had guessed so before but was not as sure as Yujie.

"It should be a skin disease. In severe cases, the skin will ulcerate greatly. I followed Mingqiu Nun when I was young. This is something Mingqiu Nun encountered a few years ago. Miss, do you remember the story that Mingqiu Nun told about how the skin disease ruined a young lady's face?" Yujie asked rhetorically.

This story could be considered as a personal experience by Yujie, while Shao Wanru had heard it from Mingqiu Nun. Mingqiu Nun had even written it down especially. The reason why she valued it so much was that Mingqiu Nun thought that this medicine was too mysterious and didn't seem to be a thing of the Central Plains.

Chapter 739 She Was Offered Another Protective Talisman

Shao Wanru's heart jumped, and immediately remembered the story that Mingqiu Nun had told her before. She had only heard it once, so she hadn't remembered it as clearly Yujie who had witnessed it herself. It was not a thing of the Central Plains, so that was why she thought it smelled weird, but she didn't know what kind of powder it was. She had been exposed to a lot of medicinal materials in the past, but she had never smelled it, which indicated that it was very rare.

"Is that the disease caused by the use of joss-stick?" Yujie reminded her. Shao Wanru immediately remembered it, and her face changed slightly. "Yes, it was the joss-stick!" Yujie said with a heavy face.

There was silence in the room. Compared with other triggering methods, the triggering of joss-stick was even more difficult to prevent. Shao Wanru's gaze fell on a copper censer on the window counter. There was incense in the censer, and a faint scent came out from the mouth of the censer, which was refreshing.

"Is this kind of incense all right?" Shao Wanru asked slowly. Yujie nodded and her face turned pale.
"Miss, what should we do now?"

"Put away this protective talisman and place it in..." Shao Wanru muttered.

"Miss, can I bury the protective talisman?" Yujie's eyes lit up. Since this protective talisman was not good, burying was the best way to get rid of it.

Shao Wanru shook her head, "Don't bury it!" She remembered what had happened to Madam of Duke Xing. Nanny Sheng had buried the oil paper in the soil. Newly turned soil was very suspicious, especially in places like Chuxiu Palace. There was no one here, but there were so many now.

If someone found the traces of a new burial, they would find something wrong with it. When it started an investigation, they would trace it back to her easily. The palace was always an eventful place. Shao Wanru could be sure that it would go far beyond the scope of a protective talisman and cause endless disasters! But it was not appropriate to put it here.

"If we don't bury it, it's not appropriate to put it here. If someone secretly tampers with the incense, you will be in trouble, Miss!" Yujie said anxiously. Although Shao Wanru had just gotten this protective talisman and it would not be a big problem even if someone lit up the incense, but she didn't dare to risk it. She had seen the lady who had a malignant illness because of the incense. There was no good place all over her body. It was all covered with black bubbles. Even after Mingqiu Nun cured her, she was left with many scars.

Her face was ruined.

"Go get a purse." Shao Wanru ordered. Yujie nodded, got up, and went to look for the purse in the package they brought. Soon she came out with a purse. After Shao Wanru put the protective talisman in it, she thought about it and asked again, "Did you bring the mint?"

"Yes, I will bring some right away!" Yujie was stunned at first and then overjoyed. She hurriedly turned around, went into the room again, and took some mint out. When the two of them entered the palace, they had also prepared some ordinary medicines. The mint was prepared by the two of them early.

"Miss, if you hadn't mentioned it, I would not have remembered it." Yujie put the mint on the protective talisman, then tightened the purse pocket and tied it up forcefully. After the medicine on the protective talisman was mixed with a special fragrance, it would cause acne spores to appear on the person who smelled it, and they would break and fester. There were also many other similar symptoms. But no matter what, neither of them dared to risk it. Now they could neither throw it away nor bury it.

Suppressing it with mint was the best way. When Mingqiu Nun treated the poor lady, the main medicine she used was mint. Later Mingqiu Nun said in a small chat that the mint flavor could suppress this scent and refresh the smell. Mingqiu Nun had mentioned it by chance. Yujie hadn't thought of it for the same reason. She was secretly thankful. Fortunately, they had brought mint. Otherwise, where would they find the mint?

They hung the mint bag outside the back window. It was the last room inside, and no one would come near here. There was just a small partition wall next to it. No one would find out. After they closed the window, the two of them calmed down. Shao Wanru sat down again, and Yujie served tea. "Miss, this

protective talisman was given to you by Third Miss. Is it possible that Third Miss wants to hurt you?" Yujie put down the tea, stood beside Shao Wanru, and asked in puzzlement.

"It shouldn't be her! If she hurts me, she won't get any benefit!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said. She was not so sure that Shao Caihuan couldn't hurt her. She just felt that there was no interest between Shao Caihuan and her. Even if something happened to her, Shao Caihuan wouldn't get any benefit.

She wasn't someone in Shao Caihuan's way. "But this is from Third Miss!" Yujie said, puzzled.

Shao Wanru was silent for a while. She didn't believe that Shao Caihuan would go after her now. She slightly narrowed her eyes. The palace was a dangerous place. It was only the first day, and her enemy had tried to hurt her. She didn't even know who the enemy was. But this Buddha incense reminded her of someone!

Even though this person showed no malice towards her, she could not prevent the people around her from trying to hurt her. The dinner was four dishes and one soup, which was not bad. After dinner, the eunuch brought some pots of hot water for her to take a bath.

After they freshened up, it had completely darkened outside. The two were tired from a long day, so they went to bed early. The light in Shao Caihuan's room also went out soon, and she had gone to bed.

Shao Yanru sat under the lamp but didn't sleep. She had a letter in her hand, and a smug smile appeared on the corner of her lips. She had just received this letter, and she had read it several times. After reading it, she picked up the letter paper and lit it on the lamp, then watched it turn to ashes. "Miss... Is this true?" Shuqi hesitated, as she cleaned up the ashes. This letter was just brought by a little palace maid.

"It's true!" Shao Yanru said affirmatively. Her smile grew bigger. Shao Wanru's beautiful looks had always worried her, but she was not worried right now. She hadn't thought that someone had planned it for her even before she arranged it herself. It saved her some calculations. In the court draft, Shao Yanru regarded Shao Wanru as her biggest opponent.

"But... this is the palace?" Shuqi was a little worried and reminded her carefully. "This is the palace, so what! It's even better. Rui'an Great Elder Princess isn't in a position to intervene!" Shao Yanru snorted coldly.

"But..." Shuqi wanted to say something but was interrupted by Shao Yanru unceremoniously. "Since this was not something we thought of, it will naturally not be triggered by me in the future. No matter what happens to Shao Wanru, it has nothing to do with me! Be careful not to give the show away." Her sullen eyes fell on Shuqi. Shuqi hurriedly winced in fright and didn't dare to say more.

The young lady's temper was much more violent than before. The lady had used to take her advice at first. Now she was arbitrary, and her temper was getting more and more violent in private. If she hadn't waited on the young lady all the time, she would almost have thought that the young lady was a different person. Shuqi felt that the young lady's temper was calm before. She was not very angry no matter what and was able to control her emotions.

The first day after entering the palace had passed silently. Early the next morning, the eunuchs delivered breakfast on time to the door of the ladies who stayed. After breakfast, they gathered again. This morning, everyone followed the Nanny in-charge to learn the rules of the palace.

It was a very painful thing for the ladies who had never studied them or who had not studied them properly. If they were wrong, they would be reprimanded by the Nanny in-charge in public. But those who had not studied the palace rules and etiquettes were often some ladies who were not valued or not powerful enough. Most of the ladies had studied them, but they were just not so standard. It was rather easy for Shao Wanru and Shao Yanru as well as the aristocratic ladies of several power ministers. In the end, there was nothing to do, so they sat nearby and watched the Nanny in-charge scold those ladies who did not learn the rules well while chatting.

Zhang Qilan went to Shao Wanru again, and the two of them looked for a place and sat down to have a chat. "Fifth Miss, do you have this?" Zhang Qilan whispered, and when no one noticed them, she pulled a thread from her cuff.

She had happened to see the familiar thread yesterday, and she nodded slightly. "Third Sister gave me one!"

"I thought you didn't have one, so I bought one for you. Since you have one, then forget it!" Zhang Qilan lowered her head and carefully stuffed the thread into her cuff, and looked around, for fear of being discovered.

"Did you get it from Nanny in-charge?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Yeah, this is something I specifically inquired about. They probably sold it to me for my father's sake, but Duke Xing's Mansion is also powerful, so they probably will give one to you for the sake of your family!"

Zhang Qilan glanced sideways at the several nannies standing in the middle. When she saw that they hadn't noticed them, she leaned over and whispered. "Where did they get them?" Shao Wanru heard something meaningful and asked calmly.

"Do you know there is a Buddha hall in the palace?" Zhang Qilan asked. Shao Wanru nodded. She was the second person to ask her the question since yesterday.

"I heard that the Buddha hall in the palace is getting more spiritual now. I don't know who went there first to ask for the protective talisman. Later, they said it was pretty effective. It's just that the protective talisman in the palace is not easy to get, so it is getting more and more precious!" Zhang Qilan curled her lips. "I don't believe it!"

"There was no such protective talisman before?" Shao Wanru was surprised and curious.

"I have never heard of it before, but I just heard it this time. I also heard that it is very prosperous," Zhang Qilan said disapprovingly.

Chapter 740 She Did It for Miss Wang!

"Where did it come from?" Shao Wanru said.

"I don't know where it came from. Anyway, it's very effective, especially for women," Zhang Qilan said and looked around again. When no one noticed them, she leaned in and whispered in her ear, "It is said that the Noble Ladies who live in the palace are all well-destined. If they can get the protective talisman in the palace, they can become Noble Ladies or be protected by these Noble Ladies in the palace!"

Shao Wanru looked at Zhang Qilan in shock.

"Yes, that's what they said, but it's all legends. I don't know if it's true or not!" Zhang Qilan nodded and said affirmatively again, fearing that Shao Wanru would not believe it.

Shao Wanru was silent for a while and suddenly realized something. There was such a rumor about the protective talisman. No wonder the beauties of this draft picks had tried so hard to get one. "Then... where did they get these protective talismans?" Shao Wanru asked differently.

"The Buddha hall!" Zhang Qilan asked in puzzlement. She remembered that Shao Wanru had asked it just now.

"Who hosts the Buddha hall?" Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows.

"Pushan Nun! Weren't you in Yuhui Nunnery before? Could it be that you didn't know that Pushan Nun of Yuhui Nunnery entered the palace and gave lectures to Empress Dowager? She temporarily lived in Buddha hall. There were several nuns in Buddha hall before. But they were not as good as Pushan Nun." Zhang Qilan knew about this, and she thought Shao Wanru should know it too. Didn't she live in Yuhui Nunnery?

Pushan Nun? Shao Wanru's heart jumped, and her eyes darkened. She continued to ask, "Are Pushan Nun's two disciples in the palace?" "Of course. Pushan Nun certainly has someone to wait on her. Even if she didn't bring her two disciples over, nuns are serving in the Buddha hall of the palace!"

Zhang Qilan looked at Shao Wanru with confusion and asked, "Fifth Miss, do you know something?"

"I'm wondering why did a good person like Pushan Nun take in two poor disciples?" Shao Wanru changed the subject calmly.

"Really? Her disciples are not good?" Zhang Qilan asked with wide eyes.

"Do you remember the nun who embarrassed me when we first met? She was one of Pushan Nun's two disciples!" Shao Wanru reminded her with a smile.

As soon as she said it, Zhang Qilan immediately remembered it. She was stunned. After a long time, she said, "She was not very good. I can't believe she is Pushan Nun's disciple. How did Pushan Nun take in such a disciple? She should be kicked out long ago!" Although she had experienced it, she hadn't noticed the details.

The two talked softly, but they were very comfortable. Some of the ladies who learned the rules did not learn well, and they were scolded by the Nanny in-charge. At this time, they started to cry, and it was pitiful. They slowed down the progress more and more. While the two of them talked with each other happily, Shao Yanru was also very intimate with a young lady. From time to time, she looked up at Shao Wanru. If Zhang Qilan or Shao Wanru met her eyes, she smiled at them slightly. She looked friendly and gentle.

The last part in the morning was drawing lots about the time for painting. The morning passed very quickly, and when it was time for lunch, they went back to lunch separately.

Shao Wanru had just finished lunch when she heard a knock at the door. She asked Yujie to open the door, and saw Shao Yanru standing at the door with a smile. "Eldest Sister!" Shao Wanru stood up.

Shao Yanru nodded and stepped inside. "Please sit down!" Shao Wanru pointed to the chair beside her, and Wan Yanru sat down with a smile. Yujie cleaned up the table quickly and served two cups of tea.

Then, like Shuqi, she retreated behind her master. "Fifth Sister, I have one thing to tell you today," Shao Yanru said gently.

Shao Wanru said nothing and lowered her head. She picked up the teacup for two sips, and then slowly put it down. With a distant smile on her face, she looked at Shao Yanru and waited for her to continue. She didn't think there was anything between them that needed to be discussed in private. Why was Shao Yanru here today?

"Fifth Sister, do you know that Pushan Nun is in the palace?" Shao Yanru said cheerfully and her face was full of joy. Shao Wanru nodded, narrowed her eyes to observe Shao Yanru's expression, and waited for her to continue.

"When I went to cultivate in Yuhui Nunnery, I learned painting with Pushan Nun, but then I had to go down the mountain for something, and I never had the chance to learn again. Now when I'm in the palace, it is a good opportunity. It happens that we have nothing to do in the afternoon. I wonder if you can accompany me to visit her. If I go over alone, I'm afraid it will cause misunderstandings!"

Shao Wanru lowered her head. She knew what the misunderstandings Shao Yanru was worried about. If she hung around, others would mistakenly think that she was deliberately trying to hook up with someone. There were only a few princes in the palace beside the emperor. No matter what others thought about it, it would be bad for her. "Why don't you go to Third Sister?" Shao Wanru looked at her and asked. She neither refused nor immediately agreed.

"Third Sister didn't like Pushan Nun very much before. If I ask her to go with me, she will be in a bad mood, and even deliberately say something inappropriate." Shao Yanru shook her head and said bluntly.

"Third Sister has always been generous. Why didn't she get along with Pushan Nun? Besides, Pushan Nun is your master of painting. Why doesn't Third Sister like her?" Shao Wanru looked at Shao Yanru.

Shao Yanru couldn't answer the question for a while. After some hesitation, she shook her head and smiled bitterly. "This is Third Sister's personal affair. Maybe they were incompatible in character. It was related to painting. Third Sister went up to the mountain to ask for a painting, but Pushan Nun didn't agree. It was not a big deal." She was very vague about it, but it was related to Shao Caihuan, so it made sense.

"Fifth Sister, when we entered the palace this time, my grandmother and father hope that one of the daughters of our Duke Xing's Mansion will go to Prince Yue's Mansion or Prince Zhou's Mansion. But which one of us will go or what position we will be given is not something we can decide. I hope that during this period, we three sisters can let go of the past and stick together. You know, if something happens in the palace, our family will be easily implicated!" Shao Yanru said with a straight face.

She had a good point. Even if they were sworn enemies outside, they should work together in the palace at this time. Otherwise, no one was sure whether their family would be implicated if something happened.

Shao Wanru was silent for a while. She looked a little hesitant because of the deep grudges between them and family expectations of them. These expectations were well-known in the mansion. On this point, Shao Yanru did not lie, but her meaning was slightly different.

Duke Xing's Mansion did hope that a lady would be selected, but the candidate had been selected and it was Shao Yanru. She sounded so genuine that she couldn't tell if it was true or not.

"Sister, I'm afraid I can't accompany you. The lot I drew earlier is in the front." Shao Wanru thought for a while and spoke.

"Which lot did you draw?" Shao Yanru asked. Everyone had left after they drew the lot, and they didn't go together. So Shao Yanru didn't know Shao Wanru's number!

"It's 22, and it's coming soon. There is only one lady before me."

"What a coincidence. I'm 32, and we're not in a hurry. I heard that the painters are not fast. It takes at least two or three days to paint a lady. We will go in a while, Okay?" Shao Yanru smiled casually.

"Although it takes some time to paint one lady, I heard that if there is an accident, the lady behind will fill in. If they look for us and we are not there, that would be too bad!" Shao Wanru shook her head and refused.

Seeing Shao Wanru's repeated rejections, Shao Yanru sighed helplessly. "Since you say so, then I will go alone. I just hope that if someone asks, you can explain it for me!" Shao Yanru stood up and said.

"How do I explain?" Shao Wanru also stood up.

"Well, you can just say I went to visit Pushan Nun!" Shao Yanru hesitated.

"Okay!" Shao Wanru nodded. Regardless of how they were outside the palace, Shao Yanru's incident was reasonable. Besides, she had refused to go with her, so it's not a big deal to just help her explain it. Even if it was to make up for her previous refusal, she should agree to do her the favor now.

"Thank you, Fifth Sister!" Shao Yanru bowed to her, turned around, and walked outside. Shuqi followed her closely. When she reached the door, Shao Yanru seemed to have thought of something, and suddenly stopped. She turned around and said, "Fifth Sister, I made an appointment with Miss Wang in the afternoon. If Miss Wang comes over later, please entertain her for me!"

"Miss Wang?" Shao Wanru didn't understand who she was referring to.

"It's Miss Wang who spoke to me in the morning. We had a nice talk in the morning, just like you and Miss Zhang. We made an appointment in the afternoon. But now I have to go to visit Pushan Nun. I'm afraid I won't be able to receive Miss Wang!" Shao Yanru said apologetically.

"All right!" Shao Wanru nodded. It was just a small favor. It was the same as explaining Shao Yanru's whereabouts. It was not a big deal. Anyone would agree to it. Shao Yanru smiled and saluted Shao Wanru sideways, and then took Shuqi away.

When they left, Yujie frowned and said, “Miss, why do I feel that something is wrong! What the hell is she here for?”

Shao Yanru had said a lot and asked her to do her favors, and she looked very sincere. She seemed to have explained everything about Duke Xing’s Mansion clearly. She had confided in her. But after thinking about it, she felt that it was such a trivial matter. Why did Shao Yanru especially visit her? She was a little too cautious.

Shao Wanru smiled slightly and her eyes darkened. Shao Yanru had made such a big fuss for only one purpose. “She did it for Miss Wang!”